



Remarks

Claims 1 and 21 have been amended, and claims 22-43 have been added, antecedent basis therefore existing throughout the specification, including the claims as presently pending. See, for instance, page 8, lines 3-8 (claim 1); page 11, lines 13-20 (claim 41); page 16, line 14 to page 17, line 8 (claim 26); page 17, lines 3-7 (claim 27); page 17 lines 16-22 (claim 30); and page 12, lines 10-16 (claim 42). Upon entry of this amendment claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 21, and 22-43 will be pending and in condition for allowance.

The courtesy of the Examiner in granting a personal interview to the undersigned on 10 June 2004 is appreciated. In the course of the interview it was agreed that the present amendment would be provided in order to address the matters raised in the current Office Action. In particular, it was discussed that claims to the present endovascular graft, *per se*, would be amended to confirm the manner in which the coating is indeed conformal, as described at length in the specification.

It was also discussed that claim 21 would be made independent, and claims dependent thereon would be added (22-30), thereby *affirmatively* incorporating both the conformal coating and the ability to avoid endoleaking into these claims, and requiring that they be accorded patentable weight.

Finally, and as discussed, new claims (31-43) have been added to provide a corresponding method of *using* the endovascular graft, rather than the graft *per se* or its method of preparation, thereby again permitting patentable weight to be accorded to both the conformal nature of the coating and its ability to prevent endoleaking, together with other claimed features.

As discussed previously, the presently cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the combination of various aspects of the present invention, including the desire to avoid endoleaking *at all*, as well as the ability to provide a conformal coating to the porous cover portion of an endovascular graft, an in turn, a method for using such a coating to avoid endoleaking. It is the Applicant alone that has discovered and combined these and other aspects in the course of making the present invention, and as reflected in the pending claims.

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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